

### Sighting of Black-billed Barbets *Lybius guifsobalito* in Tanzania

Walking down a perennial stream in cultivated land at 1320 m above sea level in the Musoma area, Tanzania (1° 45'S, 34° 06' 30"E) on 22 August 1986 at approximately 18:15 hrs, I saw a pair of barbets fly into a bare acacia sapling. I was able to observe them clearly during several minutes from a distance of approximately 20 m through x 7 binoculars.

The birds were black above and below with light barring on their primaries. The forehead and throat on to the upper breast was scarlet. The bill was large, typically barbet-shaped and dark. The total length of the birds was c. 15 cm.

This is the first documented record of the species from Tanzania. Britton (1980) notes that the bird is wide-ranging in Uganda and that it appears to be extending its range, having been first recorded in western Kenya in 1965.

#### Reference

BRITTON, P.L. (ED.) 1980. *Birds of East Africa*. Nairobi: East Africa Natural History Society.

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### Green Crombecs *Sylvietta virens* in Busia District, Western Kenya

Gerhart & Paxton (1980) described two birds from the Kakamega Forest, western Kenya, which were subsequently accepted as the first records of the Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens* from Kenya. Earlier Forbes-Watson (1971), Zimmerman (1972) and Britton (1980) had all excluded this species from the Kakamega and Kenya avifaunas, though unpublished sight records had been claimed by a number of observers.

The Green Crombec is a fairly common and widespread species over much of western and southern Uganda, and Carswell (1986) refers to it as the commonest crombec in the Kampala area, being a bird of dense bush, undergrowth, thickets and forest edge. As such, confirmation of its existence in Western Kenya had been expected for many years.

On 19 September 1988 the authors were walking alongside an area of thick bush and riverine thicket in Busia District, Western Kenya (altitude 1150 m) when their attention was drawn to a loud song consisting of a repeated short descending phrase. The singing bird was clearly visible on a nearby bush and was a crombec. Observed for several minutes at a distance of 10–15 m it was quickly identified as a Green Crombec. Although a subsequent heavy downpour of rain curtailed further observations that evening, the following morning several singing birds were located in the area and under ideal light conditions all were positively identified as Green Crombecs.

Although the bird is rather unfortunately named Green Crombec, the upperparts are no more than olive-brown at most and only show traces of green on the primary coverts when seen in good sunlight. The crown, nape, sides of face and upper chest are warm brown while the rest of the underparts are greyish-white. A short, pale, buffy supercilium is visible only at close range. Unlike most other crombecs, the bill is quite long and thin. Subsequent visits to the area over the past eighteen months now show that several birds